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GEN 13™

NUMBER ZERO

STORY: BRANDON CHOI

"COMING HOME"

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INKS: ALEX GARNER
COLOR: WENDY FOUTS
INK ASSIST: SANDRA HOPE

"DESERT BLOOM"

PENCILS: RICHARD JOHNSON
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"THE BIG DEAL"

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GARY MARTIN P.1,5,6,7,8
COLOR: WENDY FOUTS

"THINGS CHANGE"

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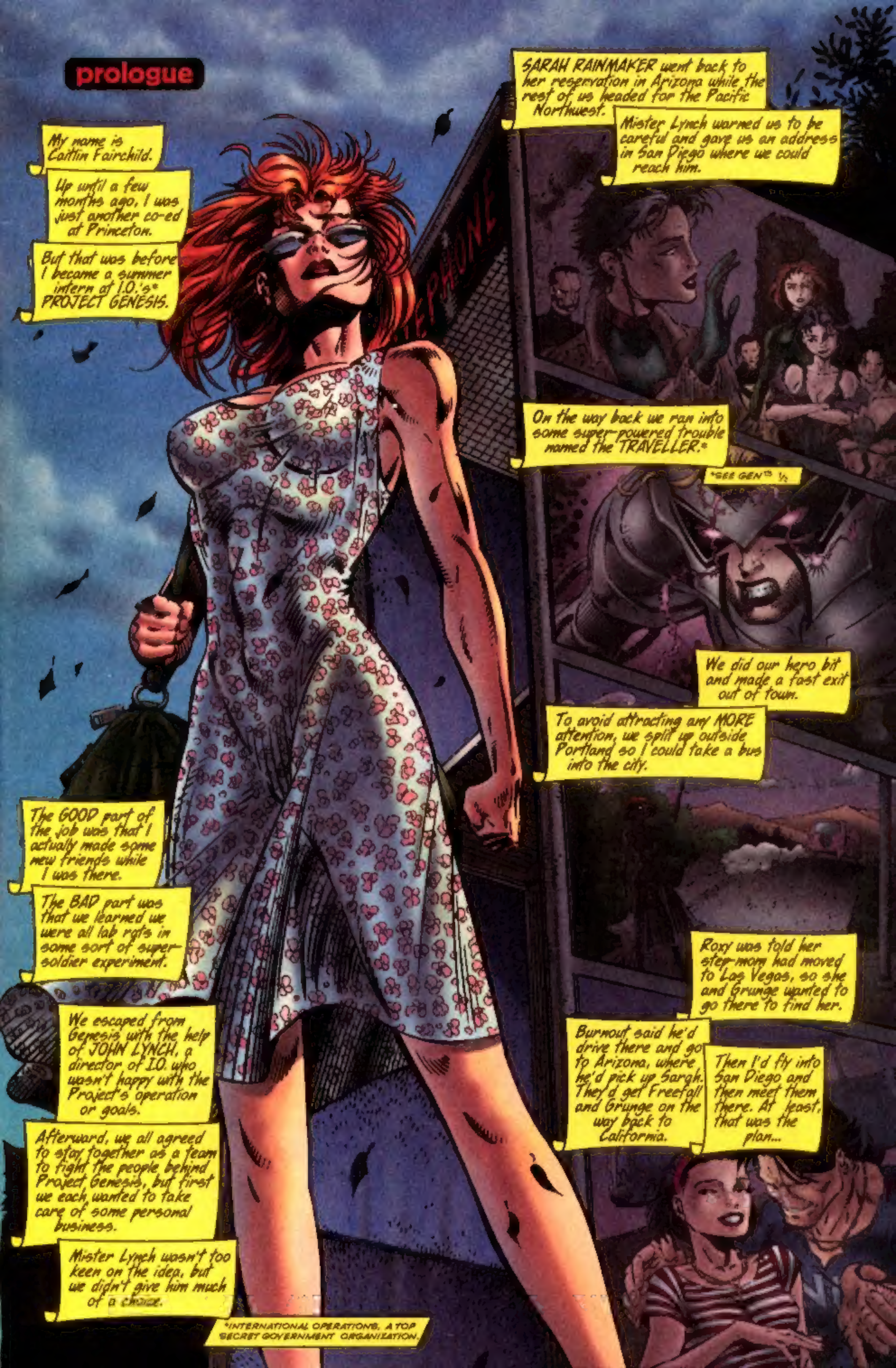
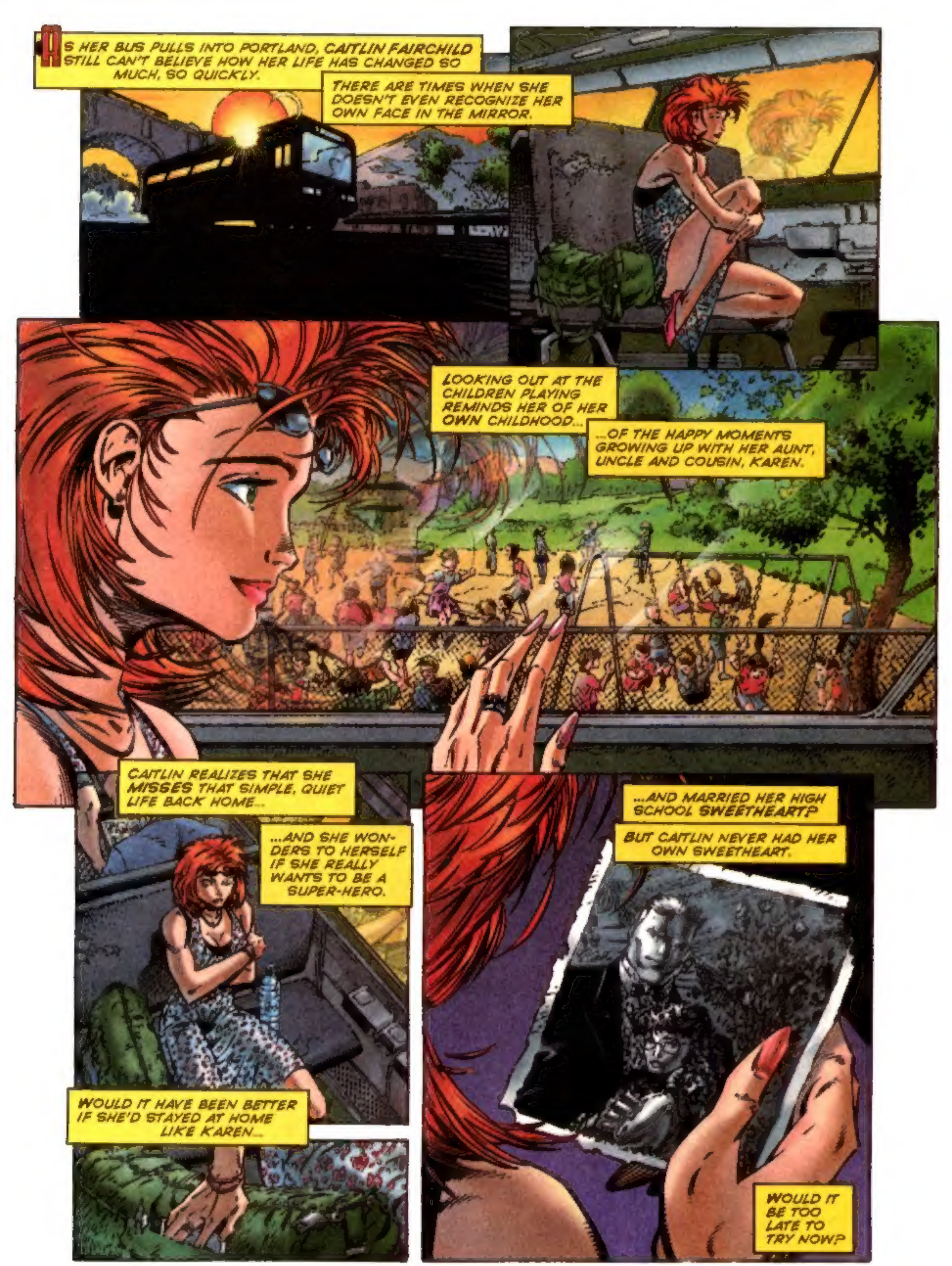

prologue
My name is Caitlin Fairchild.
Up until a few months ago, I was just another co-ed at Princeton.
But that was before I became a summer intern at I.O.'s* PROJECT GENESIS.
SARAH RAINMAKER went back to her reservation in Arizona while the rest of us headed for the Pacific Northwest.
Mister Lynch warned us to be careful and gave us an address in San Diego where we could reach him.
On the way back we ran into some super-powered trouble named the TRAVELLER.*
*SEE GEN 13 1/2
We did our hero bit and made a fast exit out of town.
To avoid attracting any MORE attention, we split up outside Portland so I could take a bus into the city.
The GOOD part of the job was that I actually made some new friends while I was there.
The BAD part was that we learned we were all lab rats in some sort of super-soldier experiment.
Roxy was told her step-mom had moved to Las Vegas, so she and Grunge wanted to go there to find her.
We escaped from Genesis with the help of JOHN LYNCH, a director of I.O. who wasn't happy with the Project's operation or goals.
Burnout said he'd drive there and go to Arizona, where he'd pick up Sarah. They'd get Freefall and Grunge on the way back to California.
Then I'd fly into San Diego and then meet them there. At least, that was the plan...
Afterward, we all agreed to stay together as a team to fight the people behind Project Genesis, but first we each wanted to take care of some personal business.
Mister Lynch wasn't too keen on the idea, but we didn't give him much of a choice.
*INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, A TOP SECRET GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION.


AS HER BUS PULLS INTO PORTLAND, CAITLIN FAIRCHILD STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HER LIFE HAS CHANGED SO MUCH, SO QUICKLY.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN SHE DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HER OWN FACE IN THE MIRROR.
LOOKING OUT AT THE CHILDREN PLAYING REMINDS HER OF HER OWN CHILDHOOD...
...OF THE HAPPY MOMENTS GROWING UP WITH HER AUNT, UNCLE AND COUSIN, KAREN.
CAITLIN REALIZES THAT SHE MISSES THAT SIMPLE, QUIET LIFE BACK HOME...
...AND SHE WONDERS TO HERSELF IF SHE REALLY WANTS TO BE A SUPER-HERO.
WOULD IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF SHE'D STAYED AT HOME LIKE KAREN...
...AND MARRIED HER HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART?
BUT CAITLIN NEVER HAD HER OWN SWEETHEART.
WOULD IT BE TOO LATE TO TRY NOW?

MEANWHILE, AT THE PORTLAND [illegible] STATION...

LOOK, KAREN, I DON'T GOT *ALL DAY* TO WASTE WAITIN' HERE FOR YOUR NERD *COUSIN*.

PLEASE, BRAD. I *PROMISED* MOM AND DAD WE'D PICK UP CAITLIN WHILE THEY GOT THE WELCOME HOME PARTY READY FOR HER. SHE SHOULD BE RIGHT --

-- *THERE!*

OVER HERE, CAITLIN!

KAREN?!

ABOUT *&*#! TIME!

WOW! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT.

YOU'RE *MARRIED* AND A *MOTHER* NOW!

ME?! JUST LOOK AT *YOU!*

WHAT'VE THEY BEEN *FEEDING* YOU AT PRINCE-TON?

GUESS I'M JUST ONE OF THOSE *LATE BLOOMERS*.

WHO WOULD'VE EVER *FIGURED*, HUH?

COME HERE! LET ME GIVE YOU *BOTH* A HUG!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HOME!

EVERY-BODY JUST CAN'T *WAIT* TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, THERE WERE SOME *MEN* WHO WANTED TO --

LOOKIN' *GOOD*, CAITLIN!

MAYBE I OUGHTA BE SENDIN' *KAREN* HERE TO COLLEGE!

CUT IT *OUT*, BRAD.

KAREN, THOSE MEN YOU MENTIONED...
ARE THOSE THE GUYS OVER THERE?

YEAH, THEY'RE FRIENDS OF MINE NOW.
THEY JUST WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU, SO I TOLD 'EM THEY COULD FOLLOW US HERE.

BRAD, YOU IDIOT! THEY'RE KILLERS!
I'M SORRY, KAREN, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO.
HEY! WHO YOU CALLIN' STUPID, CAITLIN?
THEY PAID ME GOOD MONEY, SO YOU'RE GONNA TALK WITH 'EM!
BRAD!
PAN-OCEAN

HOW COULD YOU?!
HOW?!
EASY! WE GOT BILLS TO PAY, BABE!
TAKES MONEY TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND THE RUNT!

AND WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT TALKIN' BACK?!
PLEASE, BRAD! NO!
NO?! AND WHO'S GONNA STOP ME?!

I AM, BRAD!
THWAP
AARGH!

LISTEN UP, YOU HAIRY *NEANDERTHAL!*

DON'T YOU *EVER* LAY A HAND ON HER AGAIN!

YA — YER -- BREAKIN' -- MY WRIST!

SKRRNNCH

TRUST ME, BRAD. I CAN DO A *LOT* WORSE!

I FIND OUT YOU'VE *HIT* HER AGAIN...

THA-WHAMM

...AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A *BODY-CAST!*

CAITLIN! WATCH OUT!

STEP ASIDE, MA'AM!

TASERS ON *MAXIMUM! FIRE* ON MY MARK!

WHAT ABOUT THE *NEANDERTHAL?*

BZZZZ

BZZZZ

HE'LL *LIVE.*

MARK!

WHA?!

YEAAARGH!

AAAAGH!

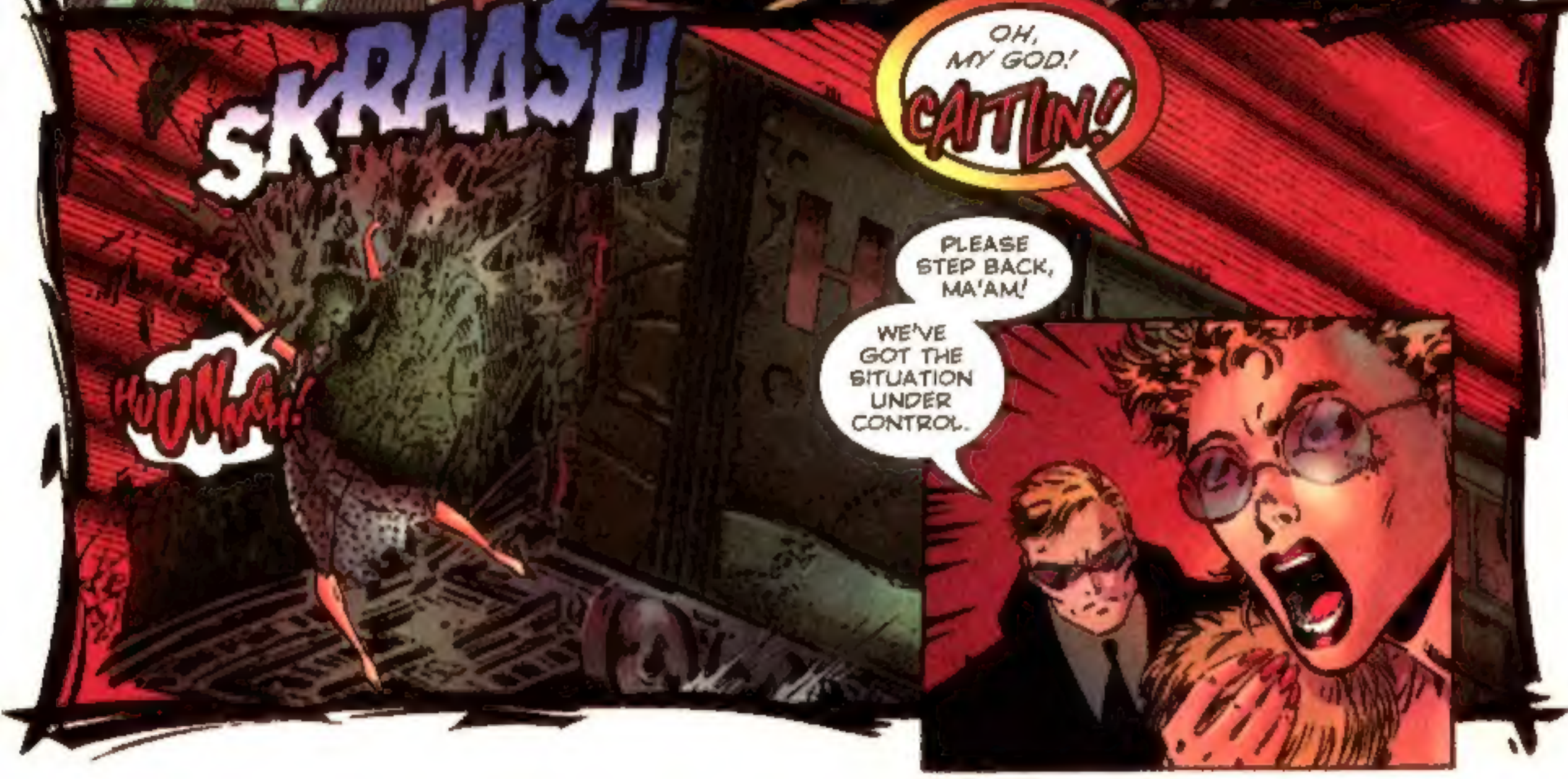
ZZZZRRPP

UUNNNHH! CAN'T THINK... STRAIGHT!
WHA... WHAT... HAPPENED?!
GOOD LORD! THE PACKAGE IS STILL MOBILE!
EVERYONE, ARM STUN-GUNS! WE'RE GOING IN!

WAIT! I... I REMEMBER!
THOSE MEN! THEY'VE GOT TO BE KEEPERS!
LYNCH WAS RIGHT! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...CAN'T ENDANGER THE OTHERS...
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

NOT FOR LONG!
CAN'T TELL WHERE I'M GOING...
BWAAAAAAH
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
NO!


SKRAASH
HUUNNGH!
OH, MY GOD! CAITLIN!
PLEASE STEP BACK, MA'AM!
WE'VE GOT THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

THAT DOES IT!

NOW I'M GETTING REALLY ANGRY!

SKRRRR

WNCH

STAY AWAY FROM ME, OR YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE ONES NEEDING THE AMBULANCE!

AM I MAKING MYSELF CLEAR?

WATCH OUT!

WATCHDOG, TELL SHEPHERD THAT THE #*!! PACKAGE IS PRIMED ALREADY!

THWHAAAM

WHAT'VE THEY DONE TO YOU, CAITLIN?!

THAT OUGHT TO SLOW THEM DOWN FOR A WHILE.
BUT NOW WHAT DO I DO?
I'M OUT IN THE OPEN WITH NO PLACE TO HIDE.

GET IN, GIRL! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON!
SKREEECH
HUH? WHO -- WHO ARE YOU?

THE NAME'S WESLEY!
I'M A FRIEND.

HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM?!
LYNCH SENT ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE!
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
GUESS I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE.
LET'S GO!

SO HOW COME SHEPHERD ALWAYS GETS THE NICE CAR AND THE BABE?
RANK HAS ITS PRIVILEDGES.
SOON...
YEAH, IT WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK, MISTER LYNCH -- JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
PACKAGE IS AT THE AIRPORT AND HEADED HOME.
end part 7

AS CAITLIN FAIRCHILD WAITS TO BOARD THE NEXT FLIGHT TO SAN DIEGO, ROBERT LANE, ALSO KNOWN AS BURNOUT FINISHES HIS OWN JOURNEY ACROSS A BLEAK AND DESOLATE ARIZONA DESERT...

THIS IS NUTS!

WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE?

WHY AREN'T I RUNNING FOR THE BORDER BEFORE IVANA AND HER KEEPERS TRACK ME DOWN?

FOR THAT MATTER, WHY IS A GUY WHO HAS THE GEN-FACTOR POWER TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO LIVING PLASMA...

SWEATING LIKE A PIG!

GUESS THE ONLY THING I AM SURE OF IS THAT NOTHING IN MY LIFE MAKES SENSE ANYMORE

WELL, EXCEPT STAYING TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER GEN13

FOR NOW

BUT JUST DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LYNCH RUNNING THE SHOW

San Carlos Reservation 20 miles

THEN WHY DON'T I LEAVE?

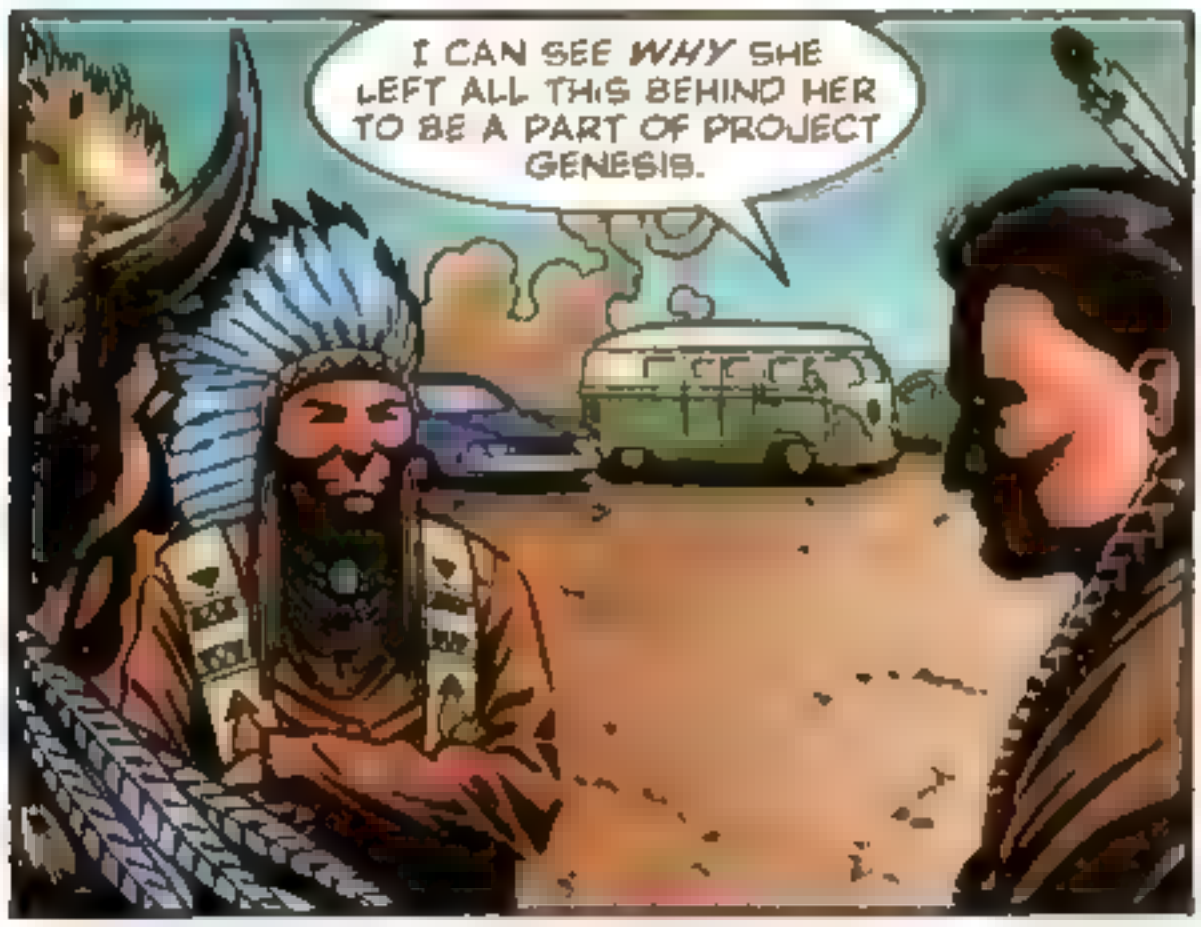
BECAUSE AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT

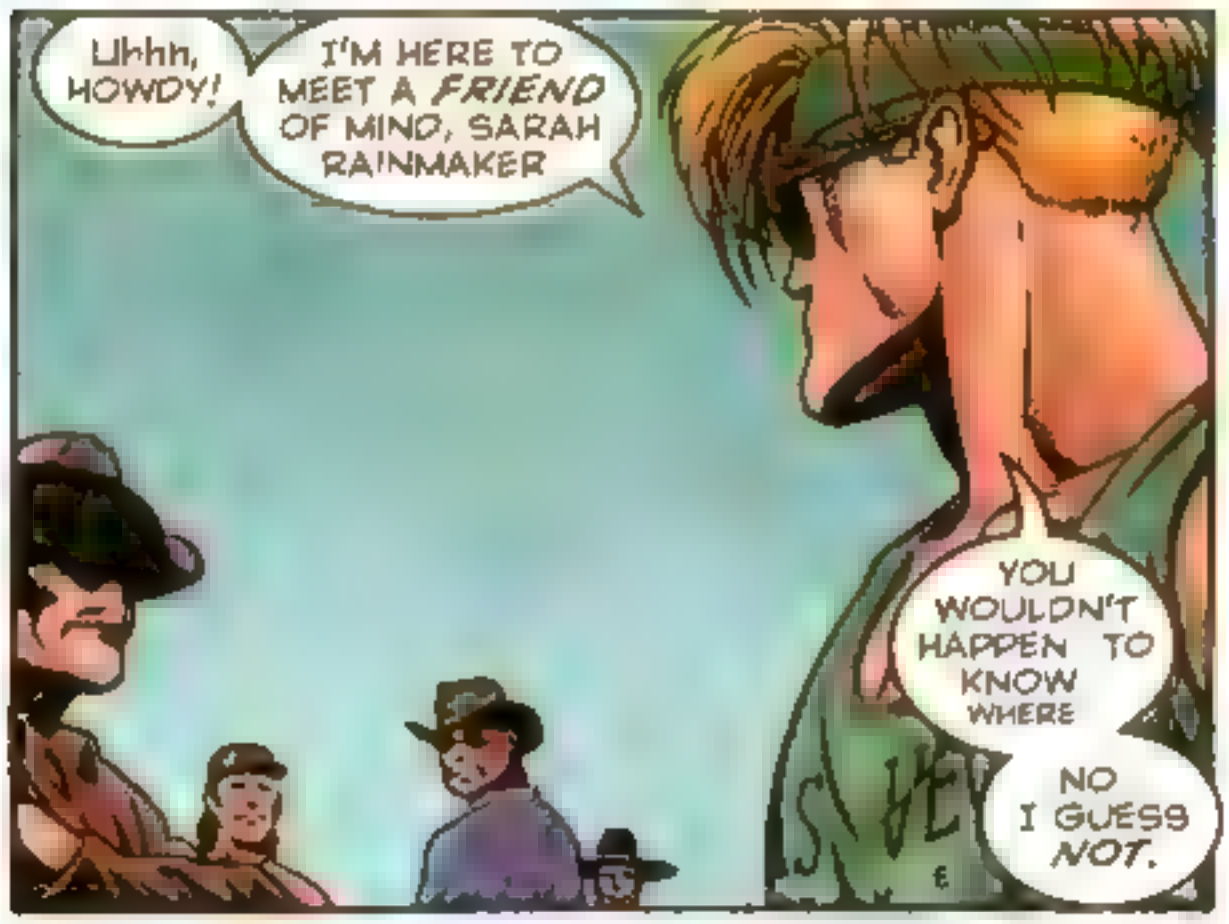
I MISS SARAH

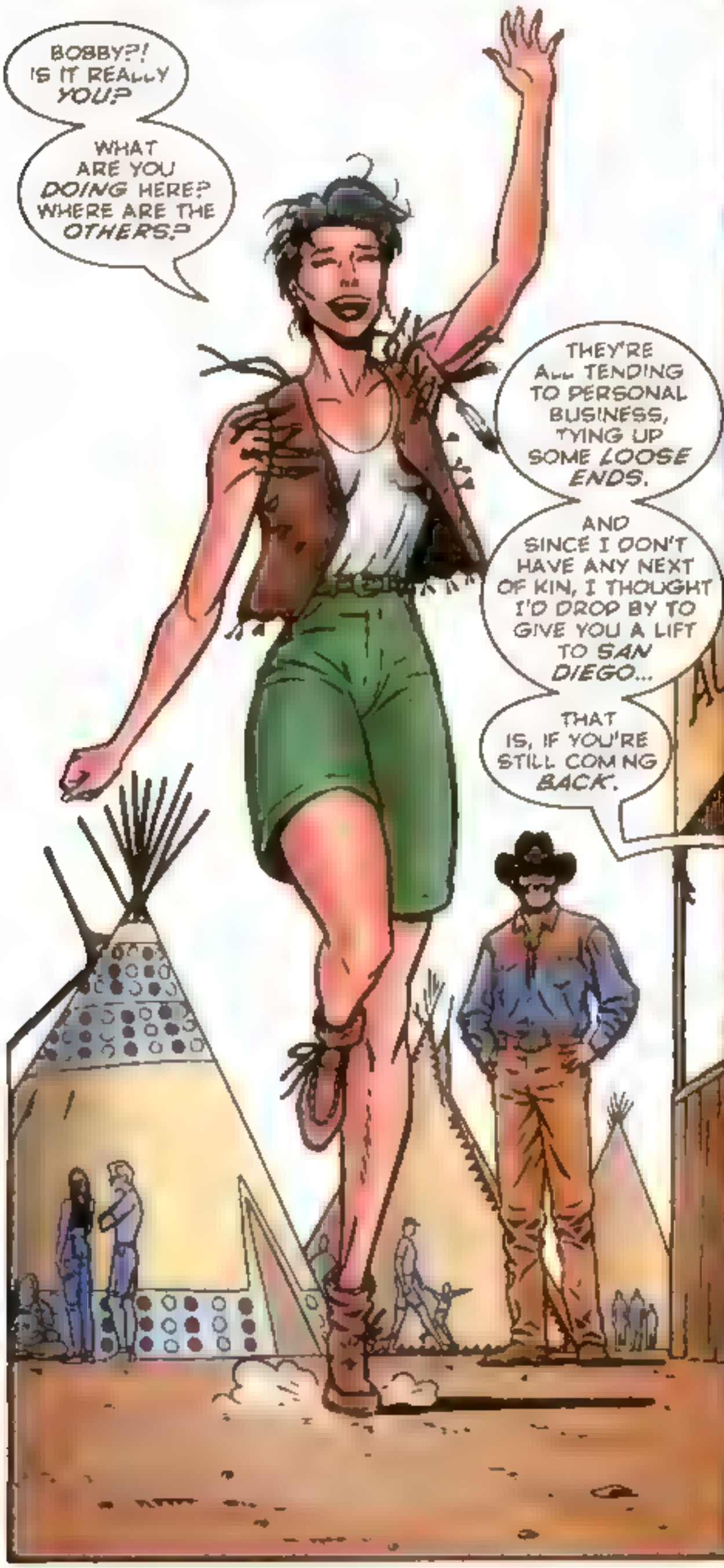
WHOA, NELLIE!

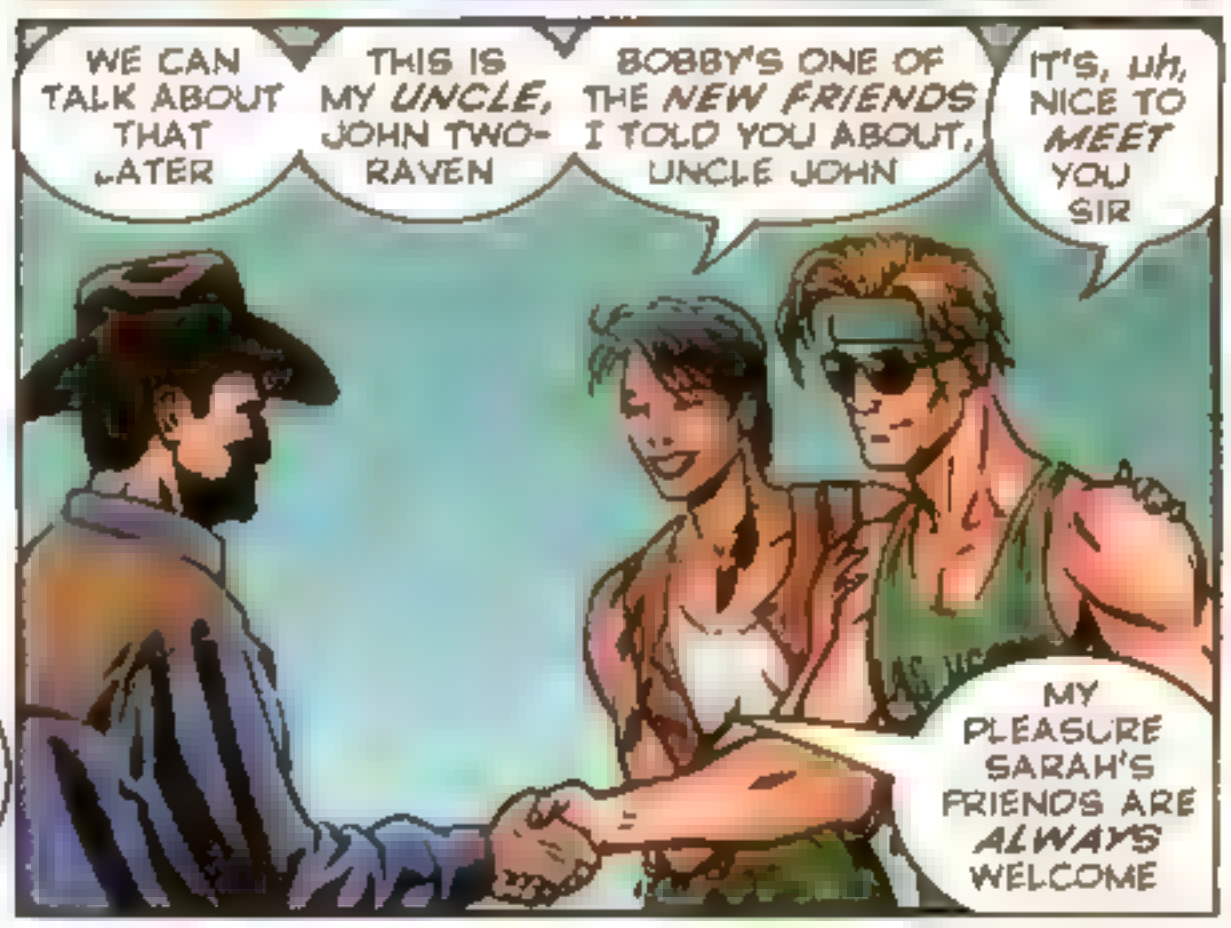
I THOUGHT THESE COWPOKE TOWNS WENT OUT WITH GENE AUTRY AND ROY ROGERS.

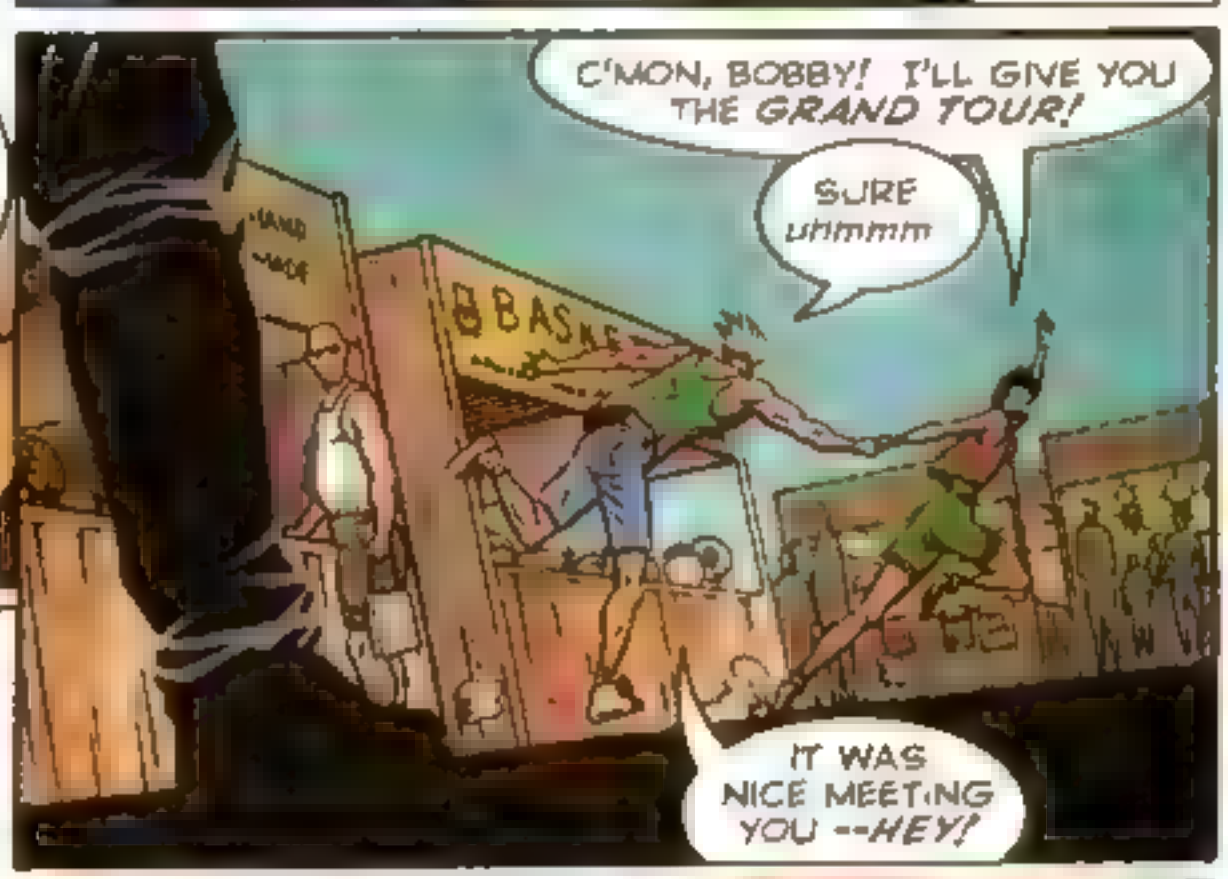
GUESS IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD FINDING SARAH AROUND HERE

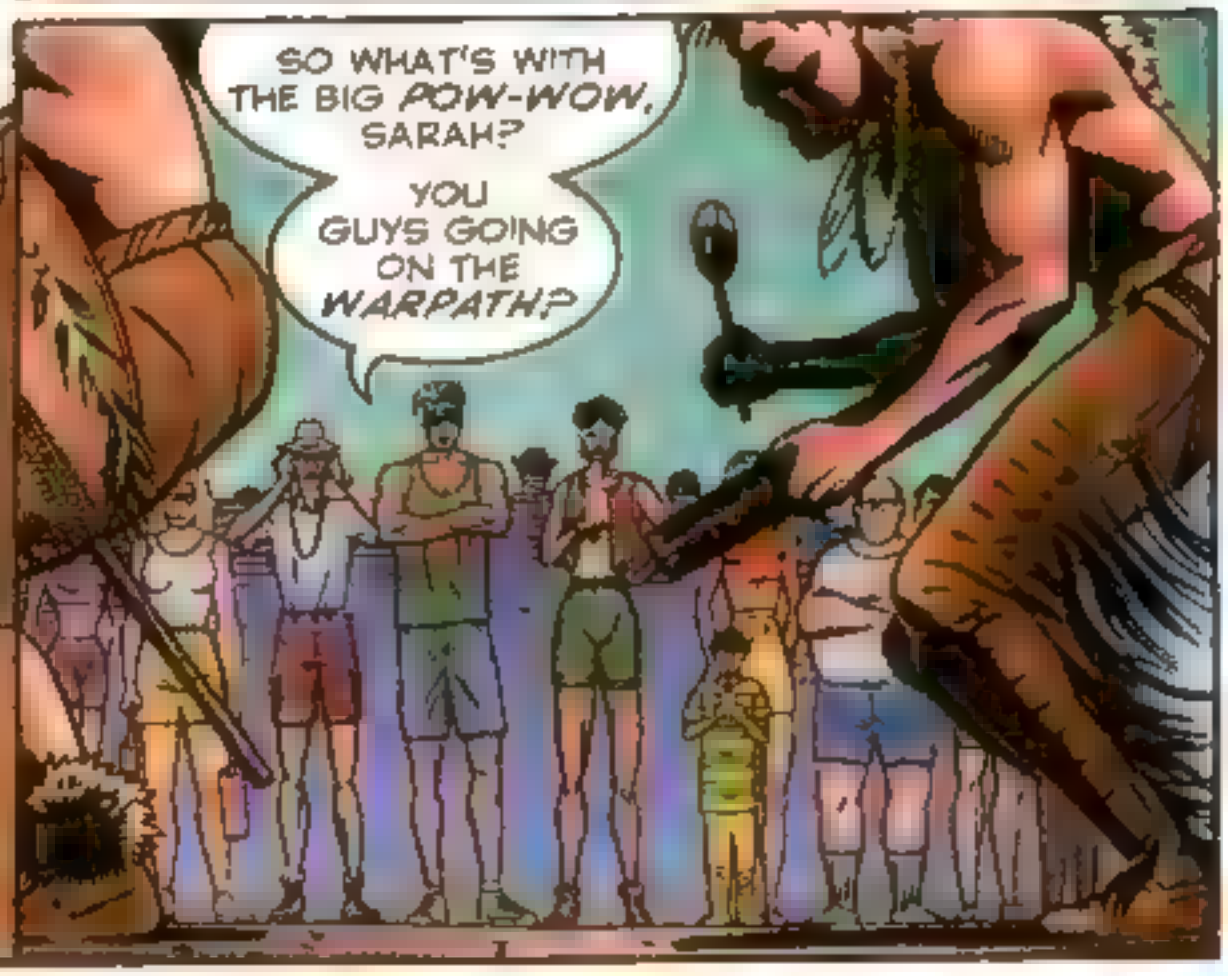

I CAN SEE *WHY* SHE LEFT ALL THIS BEHIND HER TO BE A PART OF PROJECT GENESIS.


Uhhh, HOWDY!
I'M HERE TO MEET A *FRIEND* OF MINE, SARAH RAINMAKER
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE
NO I GUESS *NOT.*


BOBBY?! IS IT REALLY *YOU?*
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE? WHERE ARE THE *OTHERS?*
THEY'RE ALL TENDING TO PERSONAL BUSINESS, TYING UP SOME *LOOSE ENDS.*
AND SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY NEXT OF KIN, I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY TO GIVE YOU A LIFT TO *SAN DIEGO...*
THAT IS, IF YOU'RE STILL COMING *BACK.*

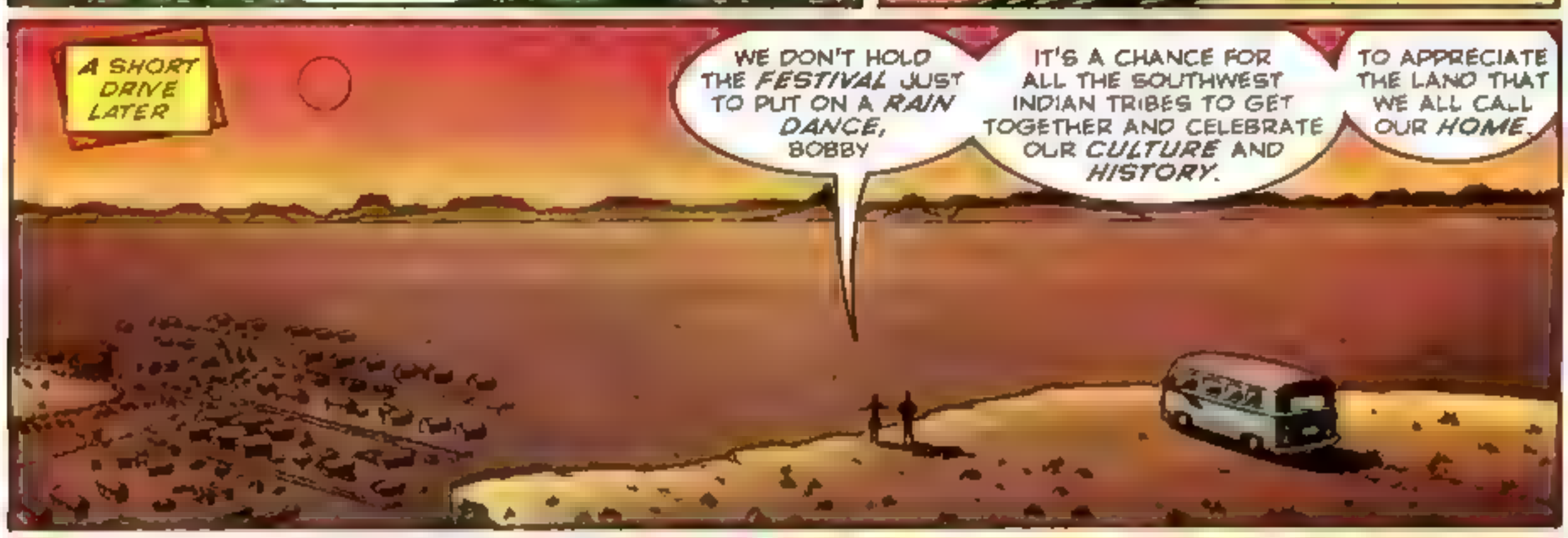

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER
THIS IS MY *UNCLE,* JOHN TWO-RAVEN
BOBBY'S ONE OF THE *NEW FRIENDS* I TOLD YOU ABOUT, UNCLE JOHN
IT'S, *uh,* NICE TO *MEET* YOU SIR
MY PLEASURE SARAH'S FRIENDS ARE *ALWAYS* WELCOME


C'MON, BOBBY! I'LL GIVE YOU THE *GRAND TOUR!*
SURE *uhmmm*
IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU --*HEY!*


SO WHAT'S WITH THE BIG *POW-WOW,* SARAH?
YOU GUYS GOING ON THE *WARPATH?*

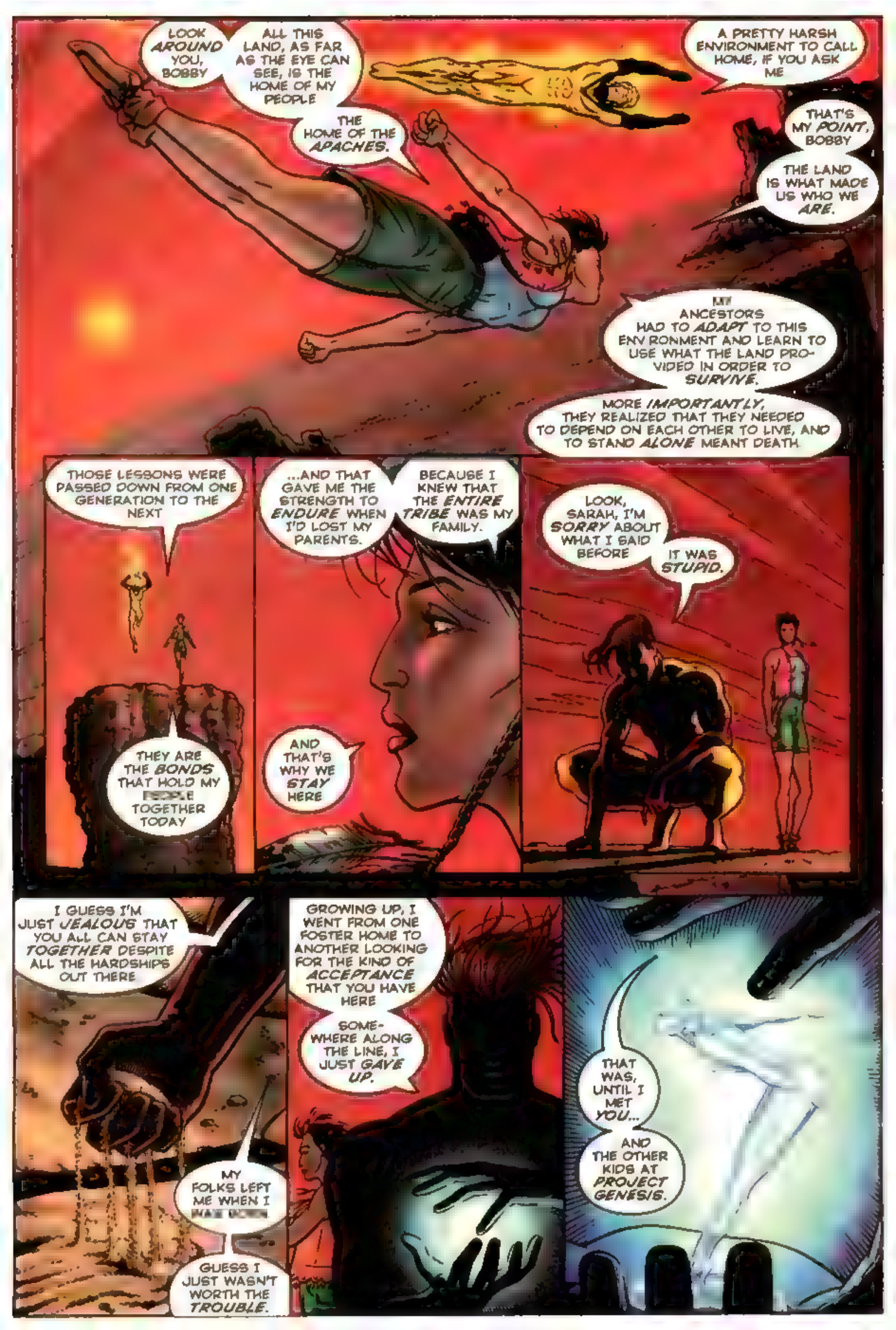
IT'S A CEREMONIAL *RAIN DANCE* FOR THE FESTIVAL.
YOU KNOW, BOBBY, YOU CAN BE A REAL *JERK* SOME-TIMES.
ME?! WHAT'D I *SAY?*
I MEAN WHAT GOOD IS A *RAIN DANCE* OUT HERE?

IT'S ALL DES --
C'MON, *PILGRIM!*
HEY! WATCH THE *SHIRT!*

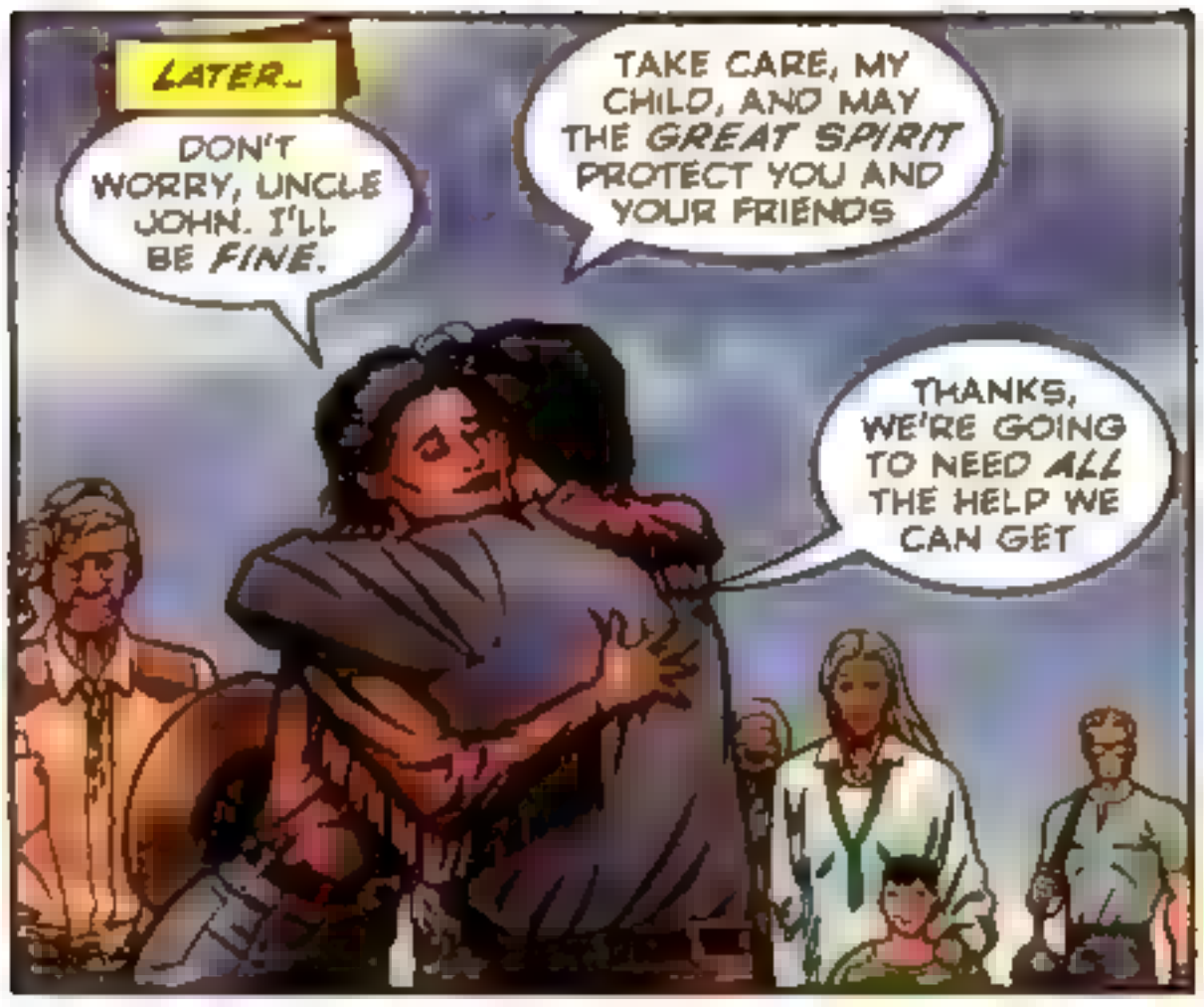

A SHORT DRIVE LATER
WE DON'T HOLD THE *FESTIVAL* JUST TO PUT ON A *RAIN DANCE,* BOBBY
IT'S A CHANCE FOR ALL THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN TRIBES TO GET TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE OUR *CULTURE* AND *HISTORY.*
TO APPRECIATE THE LAND THAT WE ALL CALL OUR *HOME.*

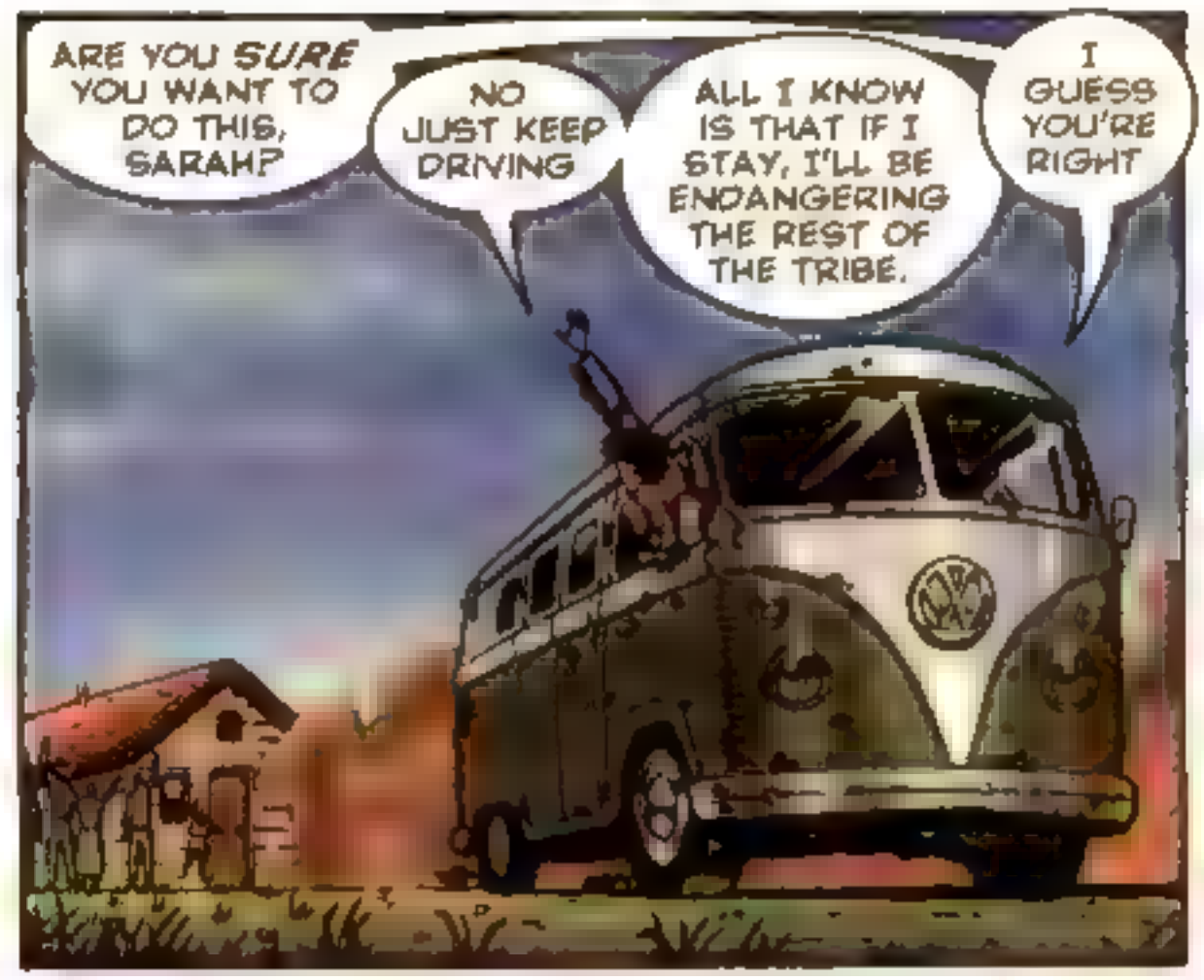
APPRECIATE?
IT'S NICE *SCENERY* AND ALL, BUT IT'S STILL A *DESERT,* SARAH
YOU JUST DON'T SEE WHAT I'M *GETTING* AT, DO YOU, BOBBY?
MAYBE WHAT YOU NEED IS A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MY WORLD

YOU KNOW, I'D ALMOST *FORGOTTEN* HOW GREAT FLYING FEELS!
YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY *GOOD* THING THAT'S COME OUT OF THIS WHOLE *GENESIS* FIASCO
BUT I *STILL* DON'T SEE WHAT THIS IS SUPPOSED TO *PROVE,* SARAH


LOOK AROUND YOU, BOBBY
ALL THIS LAND, AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, IS THE HOME OF MY PEOPLE
THE HOME OF THE APACHES.
A PRETTY HARSH ENVIRONMENT TO CALL HOME, IF YOU ASK ME
THAT'S MY POINT, BOBBY
THE LAND IS WHAT MADE US WHO WE ARE.
ANCESTORS HAD TO ADAPT TO THIS ENVIRONMENT AND LEARN TO USE WHAT THE LAND PROVIDED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY REALIZED THAT THEY NEEDED TO DEPEND ON EACH OTHER TO LIVE, AND TO STAND ALONE MEANT DEATH.
THOSE LESSONS WERE PASSED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT
THEY ARE THE BONDS THAT HOLD MY PEOPLE TOGETHER TODAY
...AND THAT GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO ENDURE WHEN I'D LOST MY PARENTS.
BECAUSE I KNEW THAT THE ENTIRE TRIBE WAS MY FAMILY.
AND THAT'S WHY WE STAY HERE
LOOK, SARAH, I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID BEFORE
IT WAS STUPID.
I GUESS I'M JUST JEALOUS THAT YOU ALL CAN STAY TOGETHER DESPITE ALL THE HARDSHIPS OUT THERE
MY FOLKS LEFT ME WHEN I
GUESS I JUST WASN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE.
GROWING UP, I WENT FROM ONE FOSTER HOME TO ANOTHER LOOKING FOR THE KIND OF ACCEPTANCE THAT YOU HAVE HERE
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, I JUST GAVE UP.
THAT WAS, UNTIL I MET YOU...
AND THE OTHER KIDS AT PROJECT GENESIS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE
I WAS ACTUALLY ...HAPPY.
BUT OF COURSE, IT DIDN'T LAST. IT NEVER DOES.
SUDDENLY, THE WHOLE THING JUST FELL APART, AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW WE WERE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES
IT JUST WASN'T FAIR.
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE LEFT ALONE
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THAT OTHERS WILL WANT YOU
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO LET THEM IN AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME HARD TIMES TOGETHER, BOBBY.
BUT IT'S THAT EXPERIENCE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER NOW
PROJECT GENESIS MADE EACH OF US PART OF THIS NEW FAMILY
AND THOUGH IT MEANS AN END TO ONE PART OF OUR LIVES, IT ALSO MARKS THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HERE?
WON'T IT BE HARD LEAVING THEM --
YOU KNOW, BOBBY, SOMETIMES YOU THINK TOO MUCH
LET'S JUST RELAX AND ENJOY THE SCENERY.





SO WHERE TO NOW, BOBBY?

LAS VEGAS, TO PICK UP ROXY AND GRUNGE

SHE'S TRYING TO TRACK DOWN HER STEP-MOTHER, AND HER FRIENDS IN SEATTLE SAID SHE MIGHT BE WORKING AT ONE OF THE CASINO HOTELS.

ROXY AND GRUNGE? RUNNING AROUND SIN CITY BY THEM-SELVES?

YEAH, BUT THEY'LL BE OKAY

I MEAN, HOW MUCH TROUBLE COULD THEY GET INTO?

ON SECOND THOUGHT, DON'T ANSWER THAT

SO JUST HOW FAST CAN THIS OLD JALOPY GO?

end part 2

MIDNIGHT IN LAS VEGAS...
NERO PALACE
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY STRIP BARS AND CASINOS THERE ARE IN THIS TOWN!
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED SIN CITY, ROX
YOU SURE YOUR STEP-MOM WOULDN'T BE WAITRESSING AT ONE OF THE STRIP--
GRUNGE!
WHOA! CHECK IT OUT!
THIS PLACE IS ULTRA-PLUSH!
I WOULDN'T MIND HANGIN' HERE FOR A WHILE!
WELL, IT IS THE LAST CASINO ON THE LIST
IF MY STEP-MOM'S STILL IN TOWN, SHE'S JUST GOT TO BE HERE
I'M GONNA START ASKING SOME OF THE WAITRESSES IF THEY'VE SEEN HER AROUND.
GOOD CALL, ROX LET'S GO CHECK THIS PLACE --
UH-OH!
GRRMMBLE

WHAT'S *WRONG*, GRUNGE?

WE HAVEN'T SCARFED ON ANYTHING SINCE *DINNER!*

YOU ARE A *BOTTOMLESS PIT!*

GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT WHILE I LOOK AROUND

BUT I ALREADY *SPENT* ALL THE DINERO MISTER LYNCH GAVE US!

LET'S SEE

I'VE STILL GOT *FIVE BUCKS* LEFT

HERE, *YOU* TAKE IT --

-- YOU'VE BEEN SO COOL ABOUT HELPING ME LOOK FOR MY STEP-MOM.

NO *WAY*, ROX! IT AIN'T NO THANG

I MEAN, WE'RE *BUDS*, RIGHT?

YOU PASS UP *FOOD?!*

SOMETIMES I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT, GRUNGE

BUT I *STILL* THINK YOU'RE SWEET!

THANKS FOR *BEING* HERE FOR ME

HEY, WHO *LOVES* YA, BABY!

HOLD IT! I JUST GOT A *BRAINSTORM!*

JH-*HUH*. WHERE ARE YOU GOING *NOW?*

TRUST ME! OUR CASH FLOW PROBLEMS ARE *SOLVED!*

OKAY, WE'VE BET ON DOUBLE ZERO. BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW WE'LL —

JUST DO WHAT I TELL YA, ROX. PSSPSSPSS PSS

WHHIRRR

WHATEVER!

ZOOP

CLIK CLAK

PLUNK

WINNER! DOUBLE ZERO!

WE -- WE WON!

WAHOOO!

MUCHO DINERO! COME TO PAPA!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, WON YU

HMMMM

NAEHO, DAE DAE?

HUH? SORRY, DUDE, BUT I ONLY SPEAK *AMERICAN*.

MY MISTAKE.

YOU JUST REMIND ME OF SOMEONE I ONCE KNEW IN HONG KONG.

ACTUALLY, HE KIND OF *LOOKS* LIKE --

MO GONG!

SORRY, MAN -- I WAS *BORN* THERE, BUT I GREW UP IN *SEATTLE*.

SAY, THAT IS ONE *FINE* JACKET!

YOU *LIKE* MY LITTLE BROTHER?

LOOKS LIKE WE *BOTH* HAVE GOOD TASTE

HERE, MY GIFT TO YOU --

-- PERHAPS YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH IT THAN I DID

NO WAY, MAN! *REALLY?*

THIS IS JUST *TOO COOL!*

NOW THERE GOES ONE *RIGHTEOUS* DUDE.

YOU'RE NOT *REALLY* GOING TO WEAR THAT THING, ARE YOU?

WITH *PRIDE!*

FLIK

HEY, HE LEFT THE SWEET *SPECS*, TOO!

CHECK IT *OUT*, ROX! AM I *STYLIN'* OR WHAT?!

JUST CALL ME THE *KING OF LAS VEGAS!*

THANK YOU *VERRRY* MUCH!

OH, *BROTHER!*

BE STILL, MY FOOLISH HEART!

WOULD YA LOOK AT THAT! HE'S STILL WINNIN'!
THAT'S GOT TO BE AT LEAST A HUNDRED GRAND!
THE GUY JUST CAN'T MISS!
EH?!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON AT THAT ROULETTE TABLE?
JUST WHO IS THIS CLOWN WINNIN' ALL MY --
HUH?! IT'S HIM!
LIU WON YU! THE HITMAN FOR THE CHINESE TRIAD!
TRYIN' TO MOVE IN ON VITO SPINELLI'S TURF, ARE YOU?! WELL, HAVE I GOT A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU!
TONY! GET DOWN THERE AND TAKE CARE OF MISTER WON YU! JIMMY HOFFA STYLE!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!
HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT 'IM!
KACHAK
THIS GUY'S UNREAL!
GAME'S GOTTA BE FIXED!
AND MAKE SURE YOU BRING ME BACK ALL HIS WINNINGS!
YOUR LUCK IS JUST ABOUT TO RUN OUT, MISTER WON YU --

"-- AS WELL AS YOUR *LIFE!*"

WE JUST MISSED HER *AGAIN*, GRUNGE!

ONE OF THE WAITRESSES TOLD ME SHE LEFT A COUPLE DAYS AGO FOR NEW YORK CITY

I'M *NEVER* GOING TO FIND MY STEP-MOM *THERE!*

UHHH GEE, I'M REALLY *SORRY*, ROX

HEY, MAYBE IF WE WIN ENOUGH *MONEY*, WE CAN FLY TO --

HUUNGH!

OUTTA MY WAY, PUNK!

THERE THEY *ARE!*

UH-OH, GRUNGE! LOOKS LIKE *TROUBLE!*

AND IT'S COMING *OUR WAY!*

CREATE A LITTLE *DIVERSION* --

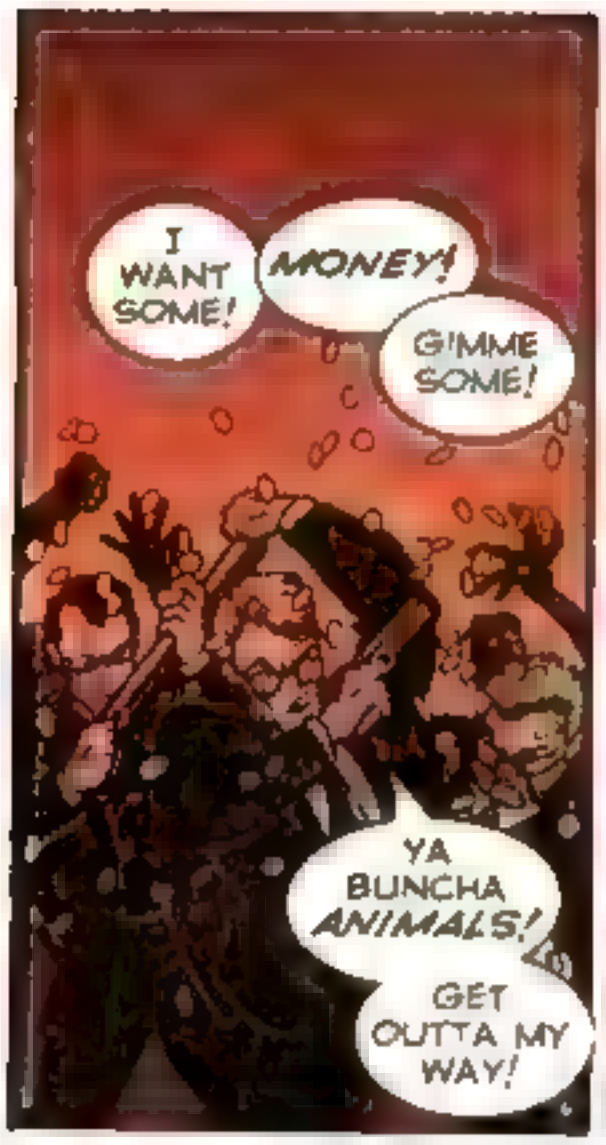
FREE MONEY, EVERY-BODY!

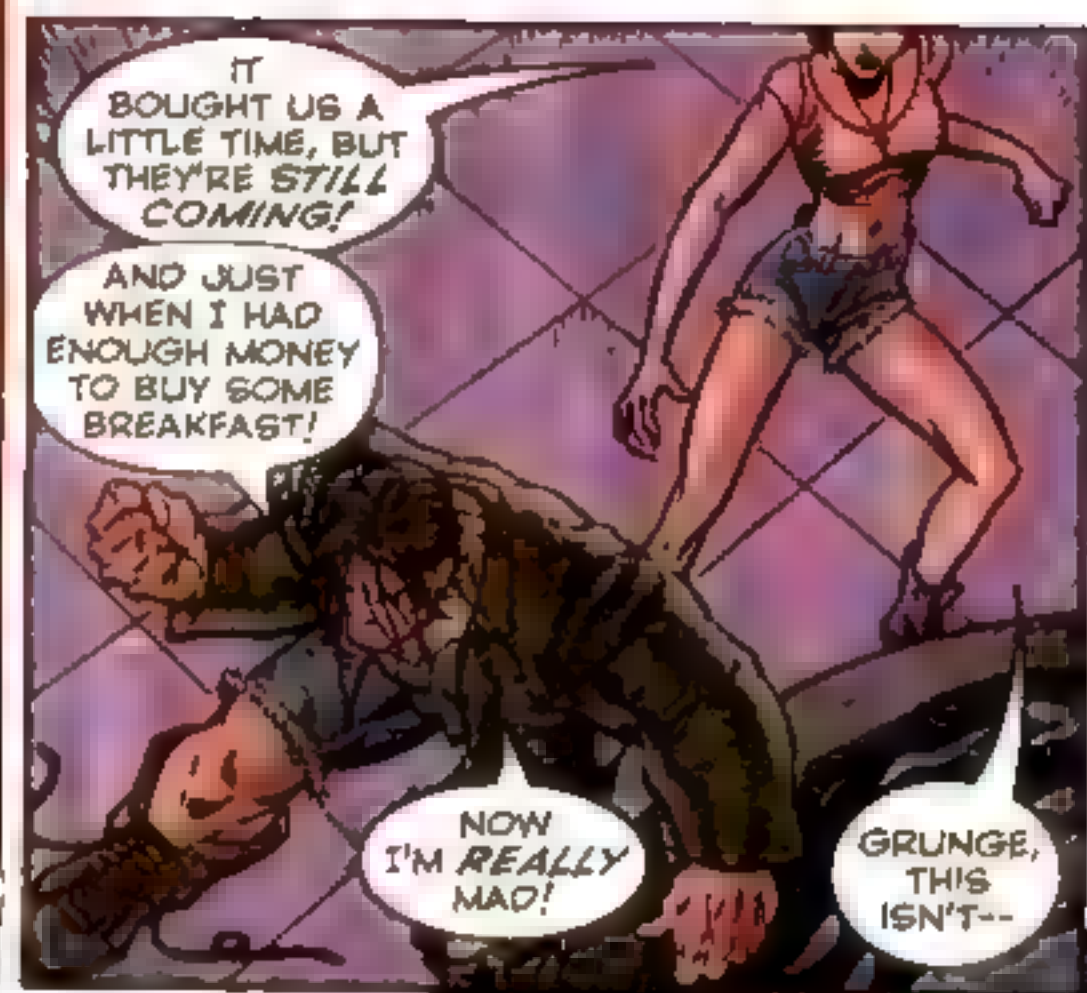
-- AND THEN *RUN!*

OH, MAN! THEY MUST'VE FIGURED OUT WE'RE NOT *EIGHTEEN!*

WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO *NOW?!*

JUST NEED TO


I WANT SOME!
MONEY!
GIMME SOME!
YA BUNCHA ANIMALS!
GET OUTTA MY WAY!


IT BOUGHT US A LITTLE TIME, BUT THEY'RE STILL COMING!
AND JUST WHEN I HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY SOME BREAKFAST!
NOW I'M REALLY MAD!
GRUNGE, THIS ISN'T--

HOLD ON, ROX!
I'VE GOT A PLAN!
KER-PLASH!

OKAY, ROX NOW RUN!
YOU CALL THAT A PLAN?!
I'M GONNA MURDERIZE YOUR KIDS!
NICE AND SLOW!

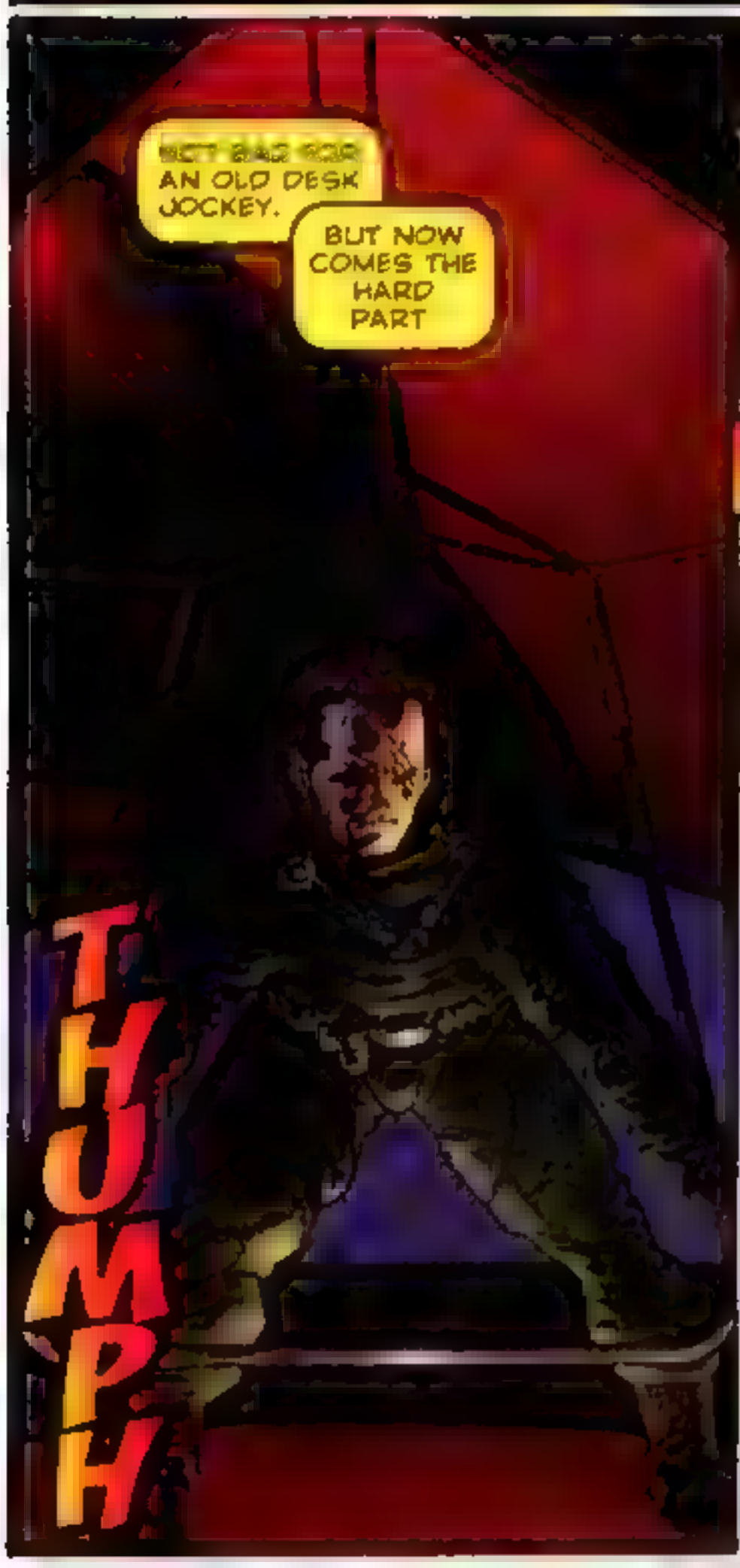
HEY! WHERE'D THEY GO?
JUST KEEP LOOKIN', SAL!
THERE AIN'T NO WAY OUTTA HERE!
MISTER SPINELLI AIN'T GONNA LIKE IT IF WE LOSE 'EM
JUST SHUT UP, GUIDO, AND KEEP YER EYES OPEN!

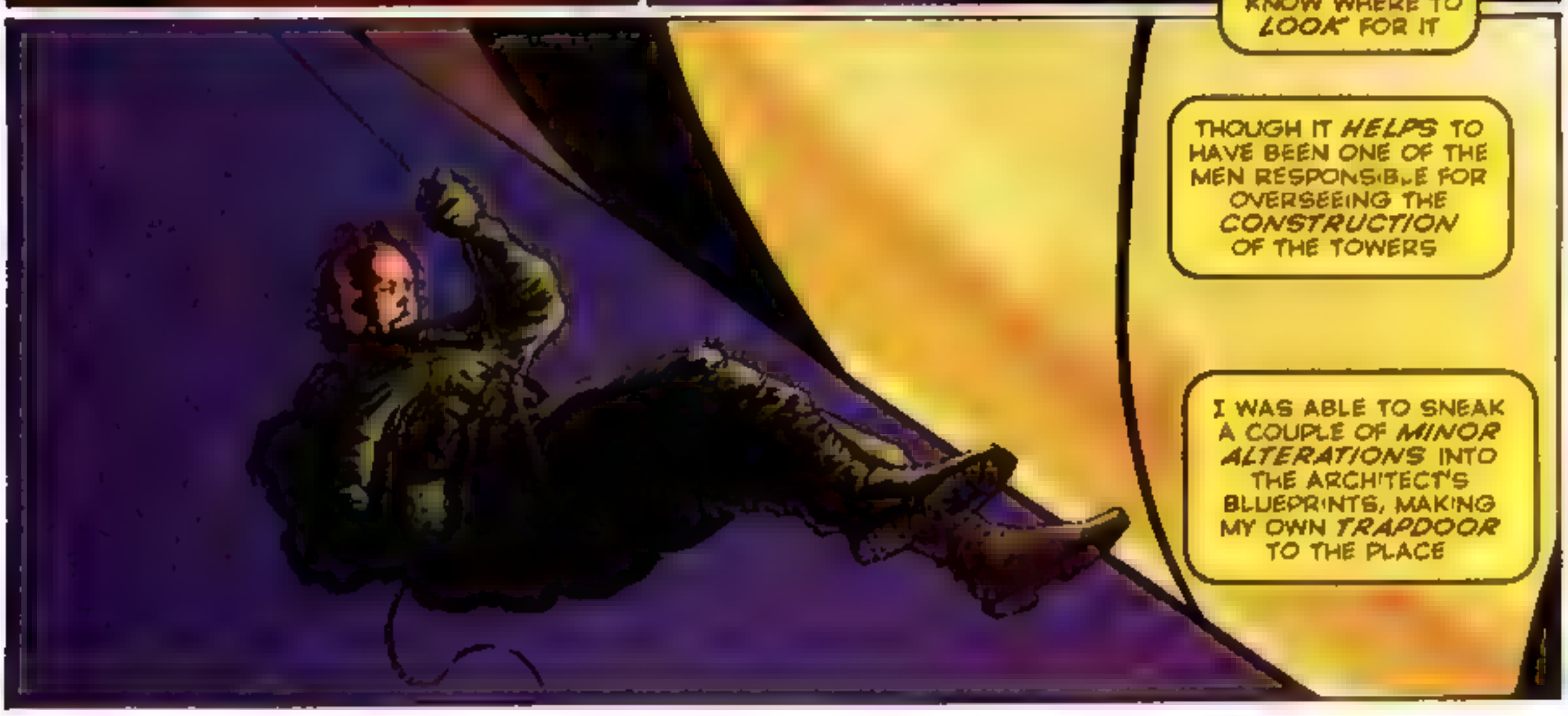
THERE THEY GO!
WHEW! TIME TO SPLIT THIS SCENE, ROX!
THAT WAS TOTALLY RADICAL, GRUNGE!
I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD TRANSFORM OTHER PEOPLE!
THAT'S WHY I'M THE MAN, ROX!
I'M JUST FULL OF SURPRISES
UH-OH!
D'OH!
OH
THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!
WE ARE OUTTA HERE!
WELL, YOU'RE FULL OF SOMETHING, ALL R GHT
HOLD IT! THERE THEY ARE!
LOOK, GRUNGE -- IT'S THE VAN!
HEY, BOBBY! TARA!
T'ME TO BURN RUBBER!
THAT'S SARAH!
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
YOU GUYS IN TROUBLE OR SOM--
JUST DRIVE!
COOL YOUR JETS ALREADY!
AND IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO, GUYS!
VROOOSH
HEY, NICE JACKET, GRUNGE
NO WONDER THEY RAN YOU OUT OF TOWN
BITE ME, BOBBY!
end part 3

ONCE UPON A TIME, JOHN LYNCH WAS CONSIDERED AN AMERICAN HERO AND ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD.
BUT THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED...
...AND TODAY LYNCH IS A FUGITIVE FROM THE SECRET GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HE HAD FAITHFULLY SERVED FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES.
HE SACRIFICED HIS CAREER TO SAVE THE LIVES OF FIVE INNOCENT KIDS FROM IO 'S* HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION TESTS, PROJECT GENESIS NOW THERE ISN'T A SAFE PLACE FOR THEM TO HIDE ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET
BUT LYNCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAN OF ACTION, SO INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR IO TO FIND HIM, HE HAS TAKEN THE BATTLE TO THE ENEMY'S FRONT DOOR.
THE TOWERS; IO.'S CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS IN McLEAN, VIRGINIA
SO FAR, SO GOOD
THE TRANSPONDER SHOULD BE REGISTERING ME AS NOTHING MORE THAN A BIRD ON THE R RADAR SCREENS.
OTHERWISE, THE TOWERS' DEFENSE GRID WOULD'VE CUT ME TO RIBBONS WITH ITS LASER BATTERIES BY NOW.
* INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS.

I'VE MADE IT THROUGH THE NO-FLY ZONE EASY ENOUGH

TIME TO SEE IF I CAN LAND THE GLIDER WING ON THE VTOL PAD WITHOUT BREAKING MY NECK





FZZZZZ
JUST HOPE THE BUILDERS FOLLOWED THE PLANS AND DIDN'T INSTALL ANY SENSORS INTO THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE WALL
FSSSHH
IF THEY DID ..
I'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THIS CUT'S EVEN COOLED.
FSSSHH
THERE THAT'S GOT IT SMALL ENOUGH TO GO UNDETECTED FOR A FEW HOURS.
WHUMP
BUT BIG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SQUEEZE THROUGH
HOPE NO ONE USES THIS STALL TONIGHT
AT THIS HOUR, THOUGH, THE SECTOR SHOULD BE PRETTY MUCH DESERTED.
GOOD -- EMPTY.
EVERYTHING'S GOING EXACTLY AS PLANNED
TIME TO PUT ON THE REST OF THE REFRACTOR SUIT.
THE SUIT'S SUPPOSED TO BEND VISIBLE LIGHT SO THAT
.. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE WEARER'S INVISIBLE.
ZZZZMMMM

THE UNIT'S NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN *FIELD-TESTED*, BUT THIS IS AS GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY AS *ANY*.

PUT UP THE SIGN TO KEEP AWAY ANY UNINVITED GUESTS...

OUT OF ORDER

...AND HEAD OUT.

ANOTHER REASON I CHOSE THIS SITE IS BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE TO THE *CENTRAL DATA BANK*.

SINCE THE SUIT'S GOT A LIMITED POWER SUPPLY...

...I'M RUNNING AGAINST THE CLOCK TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE *BATTERIES* GO DEAD.

WHA -- ?! *ALICIA!*

??

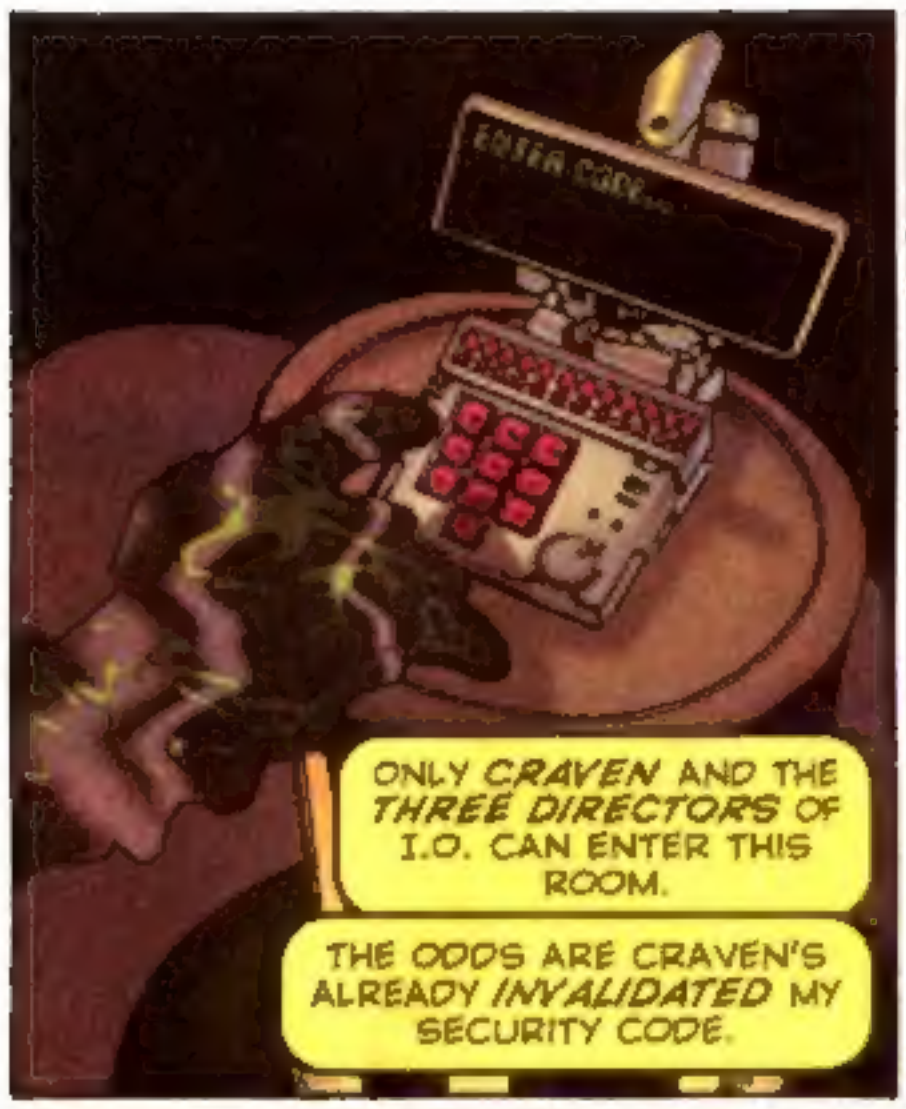
OF ALL THE PEOPLE AT I.O., I 'M GOING TO MISS HER --

STOP IT! YOU DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS.

THERE ARE *OTHER* PEOPLE'S LIVES AT STAKE HERE BESIDES YOURS.

THE C.O.B. SHOULD BE JUST AROUND THIS CORNER.

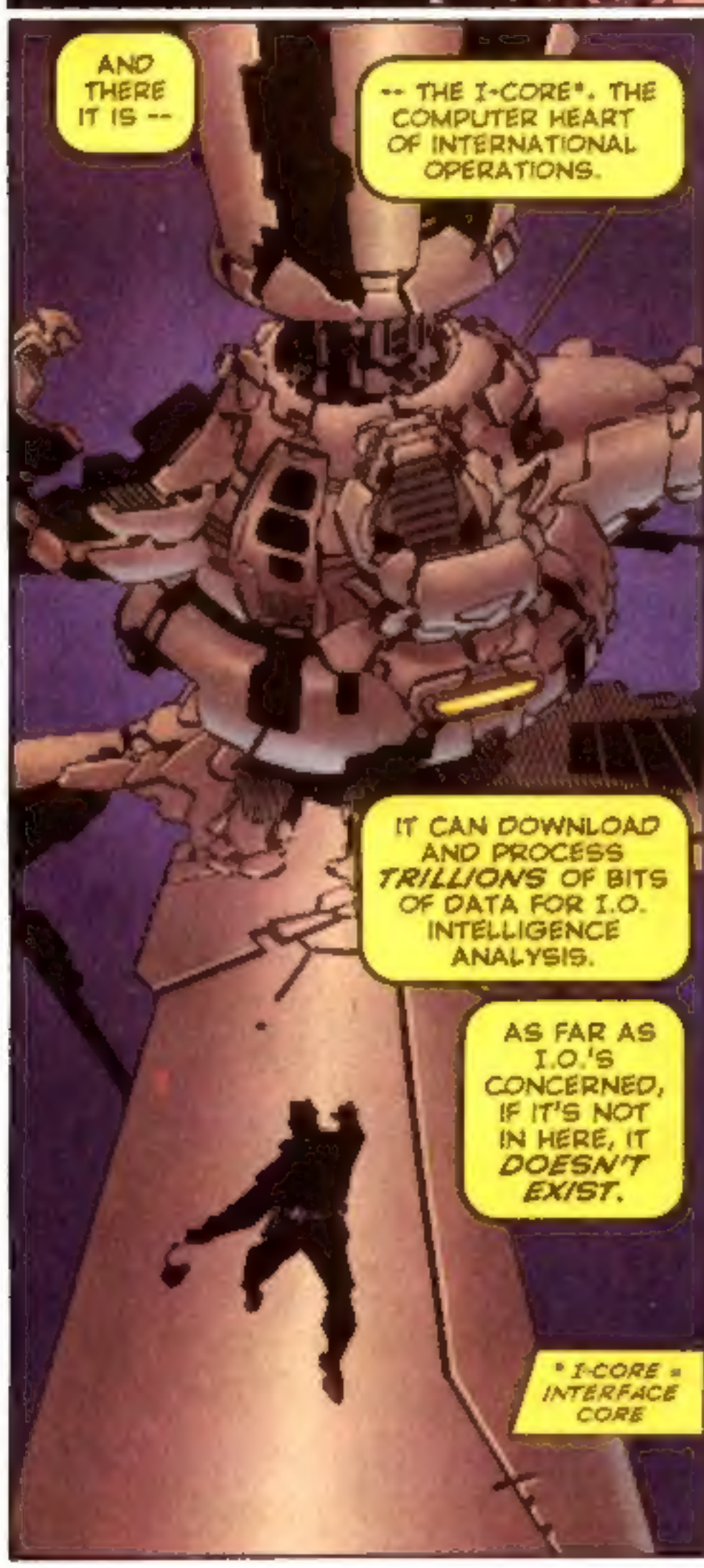
RESTRICTED

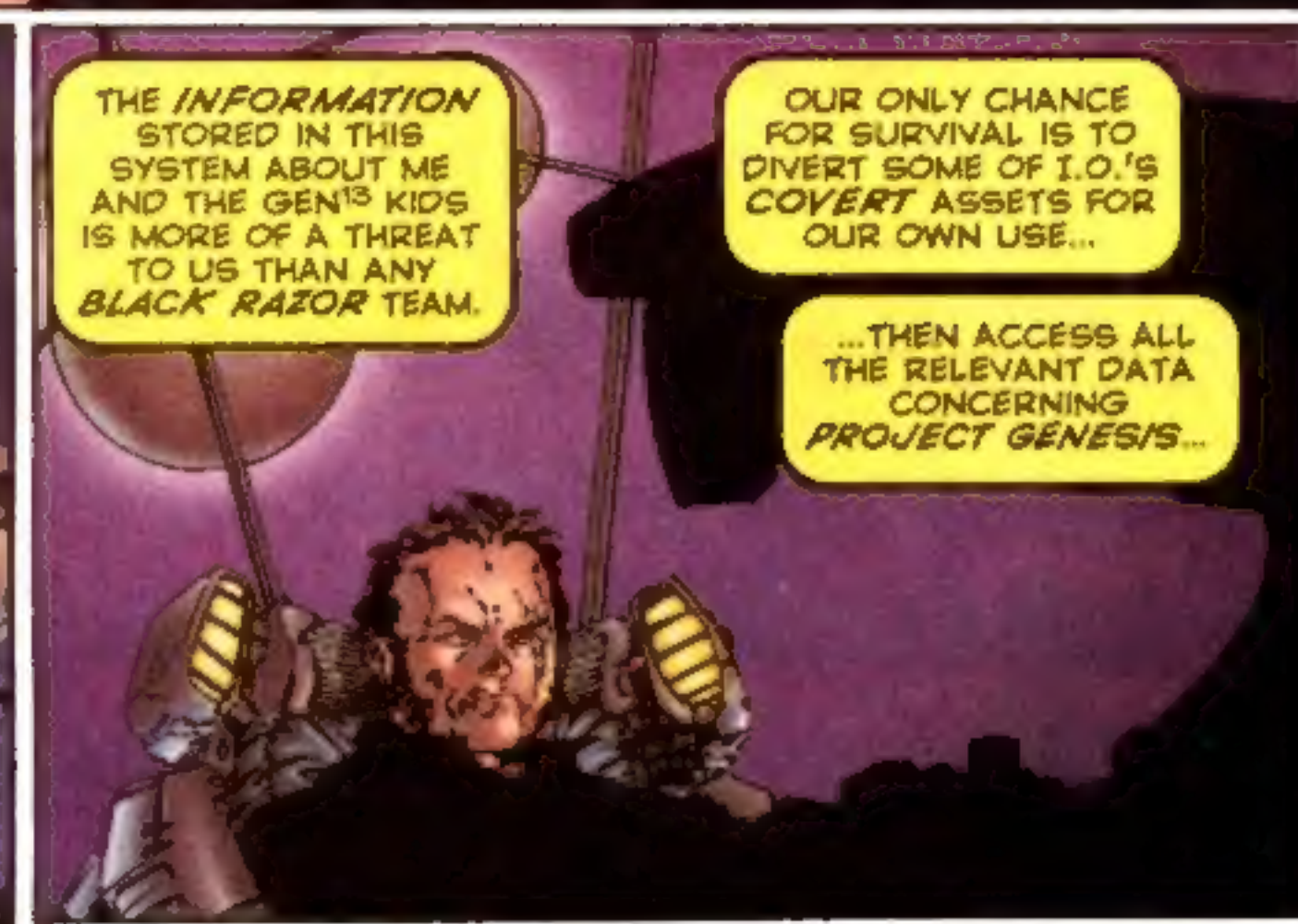

ONLY CRAVEN AND THE THREE DIRECTORS OF I.O. CAN ENTER THIS ROOM.
THE ODDS ARE CRAVEN'S ALREADY INVALIDATED MY SECURITY CODE.

BUT I'M WILLING TO BET MY LIFE THAT I KNOW WHO HE'S CHOSEN TO REPLACE ME AS DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

AND SINCE I ASSIGNED THAT MAN HIS I.O. SECURITY CODE...
VEEEEP
...I'M IN!

//MMM
THE AREA'S SECURE, SO I CAN TURN OFF THE SUIT AND SAVE SOME JUICE FOR THE TRIP BACK.


AND THERE IT IS --
-- THE I-CORE*. THE COMPUTER HEART OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS.
IT CAN DOWNLOAD AND PROCESS TRILLIONS OF BITS OF DATA FOR I.O. INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS.
AS FAR AS I.O.'S CONCERNED, IF IT'S NOT IN HERE, IT DOESN'T EXIST.
* I-CORE = INTERFACE CORE


THE INFORMATION STORED IN THIS SYSTEM ABOUT ME AND THE GEN13 KIDS IS MORE OF A THREAT TO US THAN ANY BLACK RAZOR TEAM.
OUR ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL IS TO DIVERT SOME OF I.O.'S COVERT ASSETS FOR OUR OWN USE...
...THEN ACCESS ALL THE RELEVANT DATA CONCERNING PROJECT GENESIS...

...DOWNLOAD IT TO MY OWN SYSTEM, AND THEN...
CASH TRANSFER
CCT: 00:15:05:13
$0.000.000.00
...PURGE IT ALL FROM I-CORE'S MEMORY!
FILE NUMBER: 016637
LYNCH T. JOHN
CURRENT STATUS:
ROGUE
-DELETE FILE-
FILE NUMBER: 000001
PROJECT GENESIS
- DELETE ALL FILES -

THAT SHOULD CRIPPLE I.O.'S S.P.B.* PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT *DECADE!*

AT LEAST CRAVEN'LL HAVE A VALID REASON NOW FOR WANTING ME *DEAD.*

* SUPER-POWERED BEING.

THIS WAS ALMOST *TOO* EASY.

WAIT A SECOND...

...SOMETHING'S *WRONG* HERE.

WHERE'S THE SIGN THAT I --

WHACK

AAARGH!

YOUP! BUT *HOW* --

I SPOTTED YOU EARLIER IN THE HALLWAY, JACK.

THAT FANCY SUIT MAY WORK ON THE *VISUAL* SPECTRUM, BUT IT CAN'T HIDE YOUR *THOUGHTS* FROM A TELEPATH.

YOU GOT *CARELESS,* SKIPPER.

SO WHAT NOW, COLBY... ALICIA? YOU GOING TO HAND ME OVER TO *CRAVEN?*

IF I *DID,* I'D BE ABLE TO WRITE MY OWN TICKET HERE AT THE AGENCY.

THEN SHUT UP AND *DO* IT!

NOT *TODAY...* AND NOT LIKE *THIS.*

I OWE YOU *THAT* MUCH.

BUT THIS MAKES US *EVEN,* JOHN.

I'VE NEVER KEPT *SCORE,* FRANK. I ALWAYS THOUGHT... WE WERE *FRIENDS.*

YEAH, WE *WERE...*

"...BUT THINGS CHANGE."

end of part 4

epilogue
LA JOLLA, ...
THIS IS THE ADDRESS MR. LYNCH GAVE ME.
BEAU-COUP BUCKS IS WHAT IS IS!
AND THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR NEW HOME?
LOOKS MORE LIKE A LEGOLAND NIGHTMARE, YOU KNOW?
YEAH... THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING, KAT.
SHEEESH!
ACTUALLY, IT'S AN ORIGINAL WORK BY THE FAMOUS ARCHITECT, HOWARD ROURKE.
HI. WE'RE SORRY TO BOTHER YOU --
WHY, HELLO, CAITLIN! PLEASE COME INSIDE!
MY NAME'S ANNA. I'M THE HOUSE-KEEPER.
SWEET CRIB!
I'M BEGINNING TO DIG THIS ROURKE DUDE.
ACTUALLY, HE'S DEAD.
uhh, RIGHT. I KNEW THAT.
I'M JUST FIXING SOME BREAKFAST. MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
WELL, WELL...I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU ALL MADE IT HERE.
WHOA! LYNCH -- KICKIN' BACK? BETTER CHECK HIM OUT, KAT!
I MISSED YOU TOO, CHANG.
ANYWAY, I HOPE YOU'VE ALL ENJOYED YOUR LITTLE VACATIONS...
...BECAUSE SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION!
the end